

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 27

**Introduced by Assembly Member Davis
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Blumenfield, Charles Calderon,
De Leon, Gaines, Krekorian, Price, Silva, and Audra Strickland)**

February 18, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 27—Relative to World Languages and Cultures Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 27, as introduced, Davis. Language education: World Languages and Cultures Month.

This measure would declare the month of May 2009 as World Languages and Cultures Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On January 7, 2009, the State Board of Education
2 approved the content standards for teaching foreign languages in
3 kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, which will strengthen
4 the teaching of languages and cultures to pupils in California; and

5 WHEREAS, California language organizations are participating
6 in a 10-year Discover Languages, Discover the World! campaign
7 sponsored by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign
8 Languages to increase public awareness in the United States of
9 the importance of providing educational instruction in languages
10 and cultures; and

11 WHEREAS, Proficiency in more than one language enhances
12 communication and strengthens positive interactions among people
13 in the United States and around the world; and

1 WHEREAS, The study of languages improves the academic
2 and literacy skills of pupils, leading to increased levels of
3 achievement on verbal and quantitative examinations; and

4 WHEREAS, The study of languages and cultures provides
5 insight into the history, heritage, and perspectives of all California
6 residents and of residents of other communities around the world;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The conditions of the current international economy
9 require that Californians be able to interact effectively with persons
10 from different cultural backgrounds; and

11 WHEREAS, Linguistic and cultural competence is critical to
12 the security needs of the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, The study of languages and cultures increases
14 understanding of, and encourages respect for, people of different
15 backgrounds; and

16 WHEREAS, During the month of May 2009 the California
17 Language Teachers' Association, the California Foreign Language
18 Project, the University of California Consortium for Language
19 Learning and Teaching, and other educational organizations
20 throughout California will sponsor special activities to promote
21 awareness of the importance of California residents being able to
22 interact successfully in multilingual and multicultural contexts in
23 the United States and around the world; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
26 month of May 2009 as World Languages and Cultures Month,
27 during which time the Legislature encourages all educational
28 communities in California to celebrate languages and cultures with
29 appropriate pupil activities and programs that promote an
30 understanding of the diversity of languages and cultures in
31 California and the benefit that they represent to our nation, and
32 urges all residents to become interested in and give full support to
33 quality language and cultural programs for all pupils in California
34 schools; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
36 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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